

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 19

House resolution relating to intercity passenger rail connecting New York to the Western Corridor of Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Bissonnette of Winooski, Russell of Rutland City, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Carr of Brandon, Connor of Fairfield, Consejo of Sheldon, Corcoran of Bennington, Fisher of Lincoln, Gallivan of Chittenden, Jerman of Essex, Lanpher of Vergennes, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Nuovo of Middlebury, Potter of Clarendon, and Ralston of Middlebury

Whereas, in 2010, the Federal Railroad Administration awarded Vermont a \$500,000.00 grant to assess routing options for intercity passenger rail service connecting the southwestern part of Vermont to adjacent areas of New York, with Vermont and New York contributing local match amounts, and

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) undertook the study jointly with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYDOT), and

Whereas, multiple service alternatives were considered during the study, with the best alternative identified consisting of preserving the existing Ethan Allen Service and establishing a new service from Albany to Rutland with stops in Schenectady, New York; Mechanicville, New York; North Bennington, Vermont; and Manchester, Vermont, and

Whereas, the total capital costs of upgrading existing tracks, installing new siding track, constructing and improving crossings, and making other investments necessary to establish the new intercity passenger service from Albany to Rutland amounts to over \$130 million, with roughly equal capital investments required in New York and Vermont, and

Whereas, residents of, and visitors to, both New York and Vermont would benefit from the new service, and

Whereas, for the new service to become a reality, New York and Vermont need to work together to secure federal funding that may become available for the necessary capital upgrades to the rail line from Mechanicville to Rutland, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body urges VTrans to engage with NYDOT to prepare a joint application for a federal grant for capital upgrades to the rail line from Mechanicville to Rutland, so that both agencies are prepared to submit a strong grant application in the event that federal grant funds for intercity passenger rail service become available, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Administrator Joseph C. Szabo of the Federal Railroad Administration; the Vermont Congressional Delegation; M. William Hollister, Principal Officer, Government Affairs Department, AMTRAK; Commissioner Joan McDonald of the New York State Department of Transportation; Secretary Brian Searles of the Vermont Agency of Transportation; U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko, representing New York's 20th District; U.S. Congressman William Owens, representing, New York's 21st District; New York State Senator Joseph E. Robach, Chair, Committee on Transportation; and New York State Assemblyman David F. Gantt, Chair, Committee on Transportation.